



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



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Hot News!

GOP Fails to Get People Working

This week, GOP Leaders passed HR 1261, legislation intended to reauthorize workforce development. Rep. Betty McCollum joined 203 of her colleagues in opposing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), saying the measure failed to create jobs.

"We need to help people get back to work," said McCollum. "Contrary to its deceptive title, this legislation fails to invest in our workforce. It fails to extend unemployment benefits, create jobs or stimulate the economy. In fact, this bill repeals funding for dislocated workers and allows funds to be diverted from critical training programs."

HR 1261 eliminates dedicated funding for job search and job-training services – like Minnesota's Job Bank – to dislocated workers and a rapid response system for workers affected by mass layoffs. These changes threaten Minnesota's statewide workforce development system for services to help those who are out of work find jobs.

"As our economy lags, training our workforce must be a national priority. We need to create jobs, retrain and retain employees. This bill sets us back at a time when we need a boost," said McCollum.

WIA is intended to strengthen the country's workforce investment system. The original Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) authorized several job-training programs, including Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker Activities, Job Corps and Veterans' Workforce Investment Programs. Under this bill, funding for services to adults, dislocated workers, and Employment Services would be consolidated into a block grant to the states. This repeals dedicated funding for dislocated workers and eliminates the Employment Services program that provides critical job assistance to unemployed workers hit hardest by the current recession.



Rep. McCollum hosted US Ambassador to Laos, Douglas Hartwick on his visit to St. Paul. They visited businesses in the University Avenue area and discussed the benefits of Normal Trade Relations with Laos.

Breaking Ground on Hope

Rep. Betty McCollum joined the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) at the ground breaking of their new St. Paul House of Healing.

CVT works locally, nationally, and internationally with families and individuals to end torture worldwide.

The St. Paul location will allow expanded training programs in human rights work and provide more knowledge and leverage as CVT provides healing and promotes human rights.

Rep. McCollum is an original cosponsor of HR 1813, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003. The bill would increase funding levels for both domestic and foreign treatment centers for victims of torture, as well as the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

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